



Use of Face Covers in the House Office Buildings

Sending Office: Office of the Sergeant At Arms

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: All Members of Congress and Staff

FROM: Paul D. Irving
Sergeant at Arms

Dr. Brian P. Monahan
Attending Physician

DATE: July 29, 2020

SUBJECT: **Use of Face Covers in the House Office Buildings**

Upon the direction of the Speaker of the House in consultation with our respective offices, effective Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 8 A.M., all persons entering the House Office Buildings shall wear a face cover at all times when the individual is in the House Office Buildings, unless the individual fits within one of the exceptions below:

- A person is actually eating, drinking, or legally smoking;
- A person is in an enclosed office that no one else is permitted to enter;
- A person is aged two (2) years old or younger;
- A person is unable to wear a face cover due to a medical condition or disability as certified by OAP, or is physically unable to remove a face cover;
- A person is giving a speech or interview, provided no one is within six (6) feet of the speaker;
- A deaf or hard of hearing person needs to read the lips of a speaker;
- The equipment required for a job precludes the wearing of a face cover and the person is wearing that equipment, or when wearing a face cover would endanger public safety; or
- A person is in the water of a swimming pool.

Any person not wearing a face cover will be asked to put on a face cover or leave the building. This requirement will remain in effect until a determination is made that such a requirement is no longer necessary.

Please note that this requirement also extends to the Hall of the House as announced from the Chair. All Members and staff are expected to adhere to this requirement as a sign of respect for the health, safety, and

well-being of others present in the Chamber and surrounding areas. The Chair also reminded Members that the Speaker has the authority to direct the Sergeant at Arms to remove a Member from the floor as a matter of decorum. Should you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Office of the Sergeant at Arms at 5-2456.

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